

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

5           1.       (Previously Amended)       A system for software module to module communication, comprising:

          a module interface capable of receiving a file system request configured in a first file system format based on a first operating system, the module interface further capable of translating the received file system request into a second file system format based on a  
10   second operating system;

          a first software module in communication with the module interface, the first software module capable of communicating file system requests configured in the first file system format to the module interface; and

          a second software module in communication with the module interface, the  
15   second software module capable of communicating file system requests configured in the second file system format to the module interface, wherein the first software module is capable of communicating with the second software module via the module interface to facilitate data storage.

20           2.       (Previously Amended)       A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the module interface is further capable of translating the received file system request into a third file system format.

          3.       (Original)       A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the second software  
25   module is capable of providing a first function related to a first hardware type.

4. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 3, wherein a third software module capable of communicating file system requests configured in the third file system format to the module interface and capable of providing a second function related to a second hardware type can replace the second software module, and wherein the first software module is capable of communicating with the third software module via the module interface.

5. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 4 5, wherein the first hardware type uses a SCSI protocol, and wherein the second hardware type uses a Fibre Channel protocol.

6. (Previously Amended) An independent storage node, comprising:  
a processor;

transport hardware in communication with the processor, the transport hardware being capable of communicating data via a transport connection; and

modular storage software executing on the processor, the modular storage software comprising a plurality of software modules and a module interface that allows dynamic binding of the software modules, each of the plurality of software modules being defined to communicate a file system request to the module interface, the module interface being defined to provide file system request translation between the plurality of software modules.

7. (Previously Amended) An independent storage node as recited in claim 6, wherein the modular storage software is configured to execute on the processor by using a particular software module compatible with the specific processor.

5 8. (Previously Amended) An independent storage node as recited in claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of software modules is capable of communicating with the processor via the module interface.